

Schwartz and Leff Mineral Withdrawal Proposal

Background

The United States Forest Service (Salmon and Scott River Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest (Forest)) has filed an application package with the Bureau of Land Management requesting the Secretary of Interior to administratively withdraw 39.6 acres of National Forest System Lands along the North Fork Salmon River from mineral location and entry under the U.S. Mining Laws (30 U.S.C. Ch. 21-28), subject to valid existing rights, for 20 years. The Bureau of Land Management published a Notice in the Federal Register on July 27, 2017, (82 FR 34974) stating that the notice segregates the land from location and entry under the United States mining laws for up to two years while the application is being processed and gives the public an opportunity to comment on the withdrawal application and to request a public meeting. Federal actions related to mineral withdrawals are under the authority of the Department of Interior Secretary's Office and the Bureau of Land Management, regardless of the federal agency from which the request originates. An authorized withdrawal would be in effect for twenty years. Upon expiration of the withdrawal, management of the area reverts back to requirements described in the U.S. Mining Laws unless a new withdrawal petition is requested and approved prior to the expiration date.

The environmental analysis and other reports required under 43 CFR 2310 that will provide the basis and supporting documentation for making a recommendation to the Bureau of Land Management and Secretary of Interior on the suitability of withdrawing those lands from mineral location and entry are the responsibility of the Forest Service as the applicant.

The Project area is located about ten miles northwest of Sawyers Bar, CA and is within the North Fork of the Salmon River drainage of the Salmon River Watershed. The legal location is: Township 10 North, Range 8 West, Sections 8 and 9 (Mount Diablo Meridian).

Management Direction

The 1995 Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, as amended) includes Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan. The Forest Plan provides forest-wide and Management Area (MA) direction at the project level, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Management Areas within the project area.

Management Area	Pages in Forest Plan*	Acres within Project Area	Percentage of Project Area	Goals Pertinent to This Proposal
Riparian Reserve	4-106 through 4-114	40	100%	Be consistent with Aquatic Conservation Strategy goals.
Designated	4-120 through	40	100%	Protect the

Recreational Wild and Scenic River	4-122			rivers and their immediate environments.
------------------------------------	-------	--	--	--

*Page numbers from the July 29, 2010 version of the Forest Plan. Accessed online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/klamath/landmanagement/planning>.

Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of, and need for, this proposal is to reduce potential degradation to the unique historical value of the Schwartz and Leff residential and mining site. This is one of few remaining sites representative of the local mining history that includes intact structures. The site was first mined in the late 1800's and then later starting in the early 1930's depression era. Mining continued in various forms until the suction dredging moratorium of 2010. The construction of this site is unique, as it was built by two members of the US Naval Construction Force, known as Seabees during the 1930-1940's. Local materials were incorporated into the construction including river cobbles, round debarked logs and marble. The majority of the site is located on the far side of the river from the main road, accessible only by a pedestrian suspension bridge. Building materials were loaded on a tram suspended above the river and transported across the river by pulling the cable hand over hand until it reached the other side. Stone work is present in all the structures including a 12 foot high dam. Currently this site is in above average condition, and serves as an example of the ingenuity and determination from the mining era of the Salmon River.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to request that the Bureau of Land Management and Secretary of the Interior administratively withdraw National Forest System Lands from mineral location and entry for twenty years, subject to valid existing rights. *Valid existing rights* are existing mining claims in the withdrawal area that are current in meeting all the requirements under the U.S. Mining Laws (30 U.S.C.). There are two active claims within the Schwartz and Leff site area. Once a withdrawal (segregation) order has been published, mining on those claims may continue only after a mineral assessment exam performed by a certified minerals examiner is completed and the claim is proven to be capable of producing a reasonable profit from mining activities. The segregation order for the Schwarz and Leff Site was published on July 27, 2017.

The Bureau of Land Management is the cooperating agency as required by 43 CFR 2310.3-2(a) (3)) and is responsible for the final determination regarding this mineral withdrawal. Mineral withdrawal petitions fall under the administrative responsibilities of the Bureau of Land Management (43 CFR 2310). Section 104 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to make, modify, extend, or revoke most withdrawals on public or reserved Federal lands.

Appendix A: Project Map

Schwartz and Leff Mineral Withdrawal Project



Legend

- Schwartz and Leff Mineral Withdrawal Site
- State Highway/County Road
- Other Road
- Ranger District Boundary

